

REMARKS

In the August 4, 2006 Office Action, the application was indicated to be in condition for allowance, except for the "un-translated Japanese characters in Fig. 12B. The Applicants provide the following clarifying remarks regarding these characters.

As indicated in the text of the specification, Fig. 12B, along with Figs. 12A, 12C and 12D, are used to "exemplify a process performed by the reliability degree assigning unit shown in Fig. 11" (page 10, lines 3-5). The description of Fig. 11 on pages 22-23 uses the Japanese language, including "[e]xamining a postpositional particle which immediately succeeds a target object, and the degree of attention of an object followed by a modifying postpositional particle such as "は", "も", etc." (page 22, lines 20-23). If Fig. 12B is translated into English, a completely different example would have to be provided which would raise the issue of "new matter." For the above reasons, it is submitted that the patent should issue without any changes to Fig. 12B.

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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